Northwest Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths
Regional Workshop - Legacy Event Center
16458 160th Avenue NE, Thief River Falls
Thursday, May 1, 2025
8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Agenda

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9 a.m. **Welcome & Regional Roundup**
J.T. Anderson, District engineer, MnDOT District 2, and northwest Minnesota TZD regional co-chair; Sue Johnson, northwest Minnesota TZD regional coordinator

9:15 a.m. Building the Road Ahead: Shaping Our Future with Stakeholder Input and Strategic Action
Derek Leuer, state traffic safety engineer, MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering
See how we developed our new Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and the role stakeholder feedback played. Discover the key steps for its rollout, including communication, implementation, and monitoring. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of the plan's impact and how we will work together to achieve our goals.

9:45 a.m. From Urban to Rural: Strengthening Traffic Incident Management in Minnesota
Aimee Eggen, program coordinator, DPS Office of Traffic Safety:
Trooper John Ophoven, Minnesota State Patrol, District 2900
Traffic Incident Management (TIM) focuses on the critical collaboration between agencies to clear incidents quickly and safely, reducing injuries, fatalities, and congestion. This session will highlight the key components of Traffic Incident Management, including the role of coalitions, effective communication, and upcoming training to ensure a coordinated response. Learn how TIM helps improve safety for both responders and the public while minimizing the impact of traffic incidents. Whether you're a first responder, law enforcement, or a traffic safety advocate, this session is for you!

10:15 a.m. **Break & Exhibits**

10:40 a.m. **Driving Change: How Data is Shaping Safer Roads for All**
Angela Seley, Traffic Records coordinator, DPS Office of Traffic Safety
This presentation will highlight the Road Safety Information Center (RSIC), which uses data-driven insights and advanced analytics to enhance safety, improve accessibility and identifying better strategies to serve underrepresented communities for a more informed, equitable decision-making.

10:55 a.m. **Tech Makeover: Upgrading from Old School to Cool School**
Angela Seley, Traffic Records coordinator, DPS Office of Traffic Safety
In this session, we'll explore the MnCrash reporting system modernization, focusing on its user-friendly updates, enhanced data collection through technology and seamless integration into your workflow – making it more efficient and intuitive.

11:10 a.m. **Teen TZD Update**
Teen TZD/ Key Club members: Ellie McDermott, Olivia Schuster and Michael Rowe.
Hear how the Pennington County Teens Toward Zero Deaths are promoting traffic safety and why they are incorporating mental health in their efforts.

11:35 a.m. **Charting Our Course: Regional Action Planning for Strategic Success**
Sue Johnson, northwest Minnesota TZD regional coordinator
This discussion and collaborative workshop will focus on developing actionable steps that align with our strategic plan. Through interactive conversations and hands-on activities, we will break down key regional objectives and brainstorm practical solutions to drive success in our local initiatives.

12: p.m. **Lunch & Exhibits**

12:45 p.m. **Exploring the Impacts of Mental Health on our Roadways**
James Eberspacher, Division director, Impaired Driving Solutions
Nationally, 45 percent of repeat DWI offenders have a mental health disorder. Hear about what is happening and what can be done.

1:45 p.m. **AI Presentation (AI: The Future, Rewritten – Beyond Imagination, From Code to Cognition)**
Josh Root, deputy chief counsel, MnDOT Chief Counsel's Office;
Derek Leuer, state traffic safety engineer, MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering
What is AI and how may it impact our business sector? This session explores how AI is reshaping industries and revolutionizing problem-solving like public safety, education, healthcare, and engineering. Through storytelling and real-world examples, we'll uncover AI's transformative power.

2:30 p.m. **Wrap up**
Capt. Brian Cheney, northwest Minnesota TZD regional co-chair;
Lt. Brad Norland, Minnesota State Patrol

3 p.m. **Adjourn**

Please take time throughout the day to visit the traffic-safety exhibit tables for reference materials and ideas to implement in your communities.

Venue Wi-Fi Network: Johnson Guest
Password: jrsls1964

2025 TZD Regional Workshop Evaluation Survey QR Code